

Parents question safety of John Pritchard No. 2

The River East School Board has ordered an immediate inspection of John Pritchard School #2 after parents raised concerns on the health and fire safety at the school.

In a brief to the board's building, property, transportation, safety and personnel committee, the John Pritchard School Parent Council said the building "is at the bottom of the scale in terms of

structure and facilities" in comparison to other division schools.

Washroom facilities in the building, which holds 172 K-3 students, were described in the brief as "primitive". The brief said the carpet in the Kindergarten area is "cheap, old and worn" and has been flooded twice by sewage leaving a noticeable odor. The brief also states the roof of the 30 year old building leaks, the wiring

has sustained water damage, the heating system is erratic and the school supply room is located off the girls washroom, creating a fire hazard as the walls (along with walls in other areas) are made of flammable materials.

The education facilities are also poor, according to the brief, with a portable classroom serving as a gymnasium, only one room for library, music, French and other purposes, no room for teacher preparation and insufficient room for teacher's aides.

"I'm definitely in favour of the inspection," trustee Bryon Peterson commented at the April 12 board meeting, but added the board will have to hire a consultant to test the structural safety of the building.

"These are some very serious concerns they have about the school," trustee Don Mitchelson said. The board indicated it is prepared to pay a consulting firm to do the structural inspection.

A report on the building is to be discussed at the next building committee meeting.

Trustees to discuss restitution motion

River East trustees will discuss a motion which would allow their solicitors to automatically begin restitution proceedings in break, enter and theft cases at the April 26 meeting.

Notice of the motion was given at the April 12 meeting by trustee Peter Graham. The motion would instruct division solicitors to begin proceedings for restitution upon the conclusion of break, enter and theft cases related to division property.

The motion was prompted

by a break-in March 29 at Bertrun E. Glavin School. According to a maintenance department report, River East custodial foreman Tom Andrews and police answered an alarm at the school at 4:45 a.m. Police arrested three youths in the school and recovered goods totalling \$134.75, including a math learning centre valued at \$125, three rolls of masking tape, a box of pens and a key. A south side window had been forced, causing \$100 damage.

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